

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 706

Introduced by Assembly Member Torres

February 17, 2011

An act relating to public safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 706, as introduced, Torres. California Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

The Warren-911-Emergency Assistance Act requires every local public agency to establish and operate, or to be a part of, an emergency telephone system using the digits “911,” and creates the State 911 Advisory Board to assist in facilitating the purpose of the act to establish the number 911 as the primary emergency telephone number statewide.

This bill would designate the second full week of April of each year, commencing in 2012, as California Public Safety Telecommunicators Week for the purpose of heightening citizen awareness of the great importance of 911 service and its role in keeping the public safe. The bill would require the Governor and the Legislature to annually issue proclamations and resolutions, as specified, that draw public attention to the week in order to encourage the private sector and state and local agencies to initiate activities recognizing public safety telecommunicators.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Over one-half million dedicated men and women are engaged
4 in the operation of emergency response systems for federal, state,
5 and local governmental entities throughout the United States,
6 including an estimated 55,000 dedicated men and women in
7 California.

8 (b) These individuals are responsible for responding to the
9 telephone calls of the general public for police, fire, and emergency
10 medical assistance, and for dispatching this critical assistance
11 necessary to help save the lives and property of our citizens.

12 (c) Public safety telecommunicators are the first point of contact
13 for most interactions between members of the public and the public
14 safety systems that keep Californians safe, and the public expects
15 and receives extraordinarily dedicated service from these
16 individuals.

17 (d) America's public safety telecommunicators serve the public
18 in countless ways each day, often without recognition by the
19 beneficiaries of their services.

20 (e) Congress has designated the second full week of April of
21 each year as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week,
22 and it is appropriate for California to conform to this practice.

23 SEC. 2. The second full week in April of each year,
24 commencing in 2012, is hereby designated as California Public
25 Safety Telecommunicators Week. The purpose of California Public
26 Safety Telecommunicators Week shall be to heighten citizen
27 awareness of the great importance of 911 service and its role in
28 keeping the public safe. The Governor and the Legislature shall
29 annually issue proclamations and resolutions, respectively, as
30 deemed appropriate, that draw public attention to the week in order
31 to encourage the private sector and state and local agencies to
32 initiate activities recognizing public safety telecommunicators.